

1 **WAC 463-XX-XXX**
2 **Socioeconomic Impact**

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4 **1. Introduction.**

5 This rule describes the socioeconomic study required for energy facility siting, including
6 the requirements for Applicants to work with affected local governments and provide cost
7 reimbursement to them in some circumstances.
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9 **2. Socioeconomic Study.**

10 The Applicant shall submit a detailed socioeconomic impact study that identifies primary
11 and secondary and positive as well as negative impacts on the socioeconomic
12 environment with particular attention and analysis of impact on population, work forces,
13 property values, housing, traffic, health and safety facilities and services, education
14 facilities and services, local economy and environmental justice.¹ In preparing the
15 application, the Applicant shall work with affected local governments to determine the
16 socioeconomic impacts and the potential need for mitigation of negative socioeconomic
17 impacts. If the Applicant requests additional work from affected local governments
18 (apart from ordinary matters incident to application processing) the Applicant and
19 affected local governments shall agree on acceptable cost reimbursement before such
20 additional work is begun.
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¹ Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair Treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies. Meaningful Involvement means that: (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and (4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.